

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 13093 191524Z

23

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /028 W
----- 046202

O R 191431Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7836
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 13093

LONDON FOR COMMERCIAL ATTACHE LARRY WILLIAMSON

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, EAIR, NI

SUBJ: TRADE OPPORTUNITY: HELICOPTER SALES

1. MR. GEORGE T. KUROBO, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF NIGERIAN AIR FORCE AND FORMER NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA, TURKEY AND IRAN, HAS FORMED COMPANY CALLED INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT NIGERIA LIMITED AND WISHES TO START HELICOPTER FERRY SERVICE FROM IKEJA AIRPORT TO LAGOS IN TIME FOR FESTAC, THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL JAN. 15-FEB. 12. KURUBO HAS LETTER FROM FESTAC OFFICES ASKING HIM TO SUBMIT DETAILS OF COST, AND SAYS HE HAS BEEN ASSURED BY COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF FESTAC THAT FESTAC WILL SIGN CHARTER CONTRACT WITH HIM IF HE CAN SET UP HELICOPTER FERRY SERVICE IN TIME. KURUBO SAYS FESTAC PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT FAST, SAFE TRANSPORTATION FOR VISING HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER VIPS.

2. KURUBO ALSO ENVISIONS EXPANDING HELICOPTER AND SMALL AIRPLANE CHARTER BUSINESS INTO OTHER AREAS IN FUTURE. HE WISHES SET UP COMMUTER SERVICE FOR WHAT HE IS CONVINCED WILL BE HEAVY TRAFFIC OF OFFICIALS BETWEEN KADUNA AND NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL. SECOND, HE WISHES TO SET UP SIMILAR SERVICE FOR OFFICIALS AND OTHERS FROM OWERRI TO PORT HARCOURT. AT PRESENT, IMO STATE OFFICIALS VISITING LAGOS MUST TRAVEL FROM OWERRI TO PORT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 13093 191524Z

HARCOURT VIA BAD ROADS. THIRD, HE WISHES TO SET UP AIR FERRY

SERVICE FROM BONNY TO PORT HARCOURT TO CARRY TRAFFIC WHICH SURE TO BUILD UP WHEN DEVELOPMENT OF TWO LNG PLANTS AND PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX GETS UNDERWAY. FOURTH, KURUBO BELIEVES HE CAN GET MAIL DELIVERY CONTRACTS.

3. KURUBO MADE POINT THAT HE KNOWS FMG ANXIOUS TO GIVE BUSINESS TO NIGERIAN OWNED AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES. IN ADDITION, GIVEN KURUBO'S FORMER POSITIONS AND CONNECTIONS AT HIGH LEVELS, NAD FACT HE COMES FROM BONNY, HIS CHANCES OF NAILING DOWN OPERATING LICENSES AND SEVERAL FAT CHARTER CONTRACTS SEEM PRETTY GOOD.

4. KURUBO WISHES TO FIND U.S. OR OTHER FIRM WHO CAN PROVIDE COMPLETE PACKAGE DEAL NECESSARY TO GET THIS OPERATION UNDERWAY BY JANUARY 1977 WHEN FESTAC BEGINS, INCLUDING SUPPLY OF APPROPRIATE COMMUTER HELICOPTERS, PILOTS, SPARES, AND MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONTACT MAJOR U.S. HELICOPTER MANUFACTURERS TO DETERMINE WHO ARE LARGEST AND MOST CAPABLE U.S. HELICOPTER COMMUTER SERVICE FIRMS WHO COULD, IN TANDEM WITH MANUFACTURER, PROVIDE KIND OF PACKAGE DEAL KURUBO NEEDS, AND DETERMINE IF ANY OF THESE ARE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING KURUBO'S PROPOSAL WITH HIM. KURUBO GOING TO LONDOD NOVEMBER 29 FOR TALKS WITH BRITISH HELICOPTER FIRMS. HE INDICATED HE WOULD PREFER TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. FIRMS IN LONDON IF POSSIBLE, BUT WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO GO TO NEW YORK IF U.S. FIRM SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING JOINT VENTURE.

6. ADVISE EMBASSY LAGOS OF FINDINGS ASAP. PLEASE SEND INFO COPY TO AMEMBASSY LONDON CARE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHE LARRY WILLIAMSON. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE KURUBO TO CALL ON WILLIAMSON TO LEARN RESULTS IN CASE HE LEAVES LAGOS BEFORE REPLY RECEIVED.

7. CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE MAY BE DISCUSSED WITH U.S. FIRMS.
EASUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, AIRCRAFT SALES, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hartledg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS13093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760433-1222
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761131/aaaabaeh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <29 APR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE OPPORTUNITY: HELICOPTER SALES
TAGS: BTIO, EAIR, NI, US
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006